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ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1989 - March 1990

JULY 1990

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

EASTERN SLOPES
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

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Information Centre
Alberta Energy/Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Main Floor, Bramalea Building
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Telephone: (403) 427-3590

Information Centre
Alberta Energy/Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Main Floor, Britannia Building
703 - 6th Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T2P 0T9

Telephone: (403) 297-6324

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Regional Coordination Services
1st Floor, Provincial Building
4919 - 51 Street
P.O. Box 1598
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, Canada
T0M 1T0

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes progress to date on implementation of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan. This is the third annual report to be completed since the plan's approval, and covers the period from April 1989 to March 1990. It identifies projects that have been undertaken or will be undertaken so that the goals of the plan may be accomplished. These projects have been documented in terms of management intent, results expected, results achieved and anticipated activities for the coming year. Geographic locations of activities in the planning area are given by resource management areas (RMA) in Figure 1.

This report is intended for use by senior management within the Alberta government as well as by the general public, the ultimate users of our service.

It is hoped that annual reports will result in long-term dialogue regarding management of the area.

2.0 WATERSHED

Water is of primary importance in "A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes" (Revised 1984), the policy under which this plan was developed. Drainages in the planning area are of critical importance to the three prairie provinces.

The watershed program is managed in this integrated resource plan (IRP) by the Alberta Forest Service (AFS), Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. The program functions include the collection of inventory data and the assessment of land use impacts on soil and water resources. The program works closely with Alberta Environment and Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division on related issues and activities.

2.1 MONITORING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To maintain and/or improve the quality, quantity and flow regime of water resources.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement a point source monitoring site at the Nordegg River crossing on the Sunchild Road in the Nordegg-Baptiste resource management area (RMA). Point source sampling is used to determine sediment loading changes in areas with high use activity.	Due to budget constraints, no point source sampling was carried out.
Undertake site-specific monitoring as required.	No site-specific monitoring was required.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Undertake site-specific monitoring as required.

2.2 LAND USE ACTIVITIES

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To preserve the inherent productivity of the watershed through land management practices which provide maximum protection of the soil.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review annual operating plans submitted by industry.	All annual operating plans submitted by the timber industry were reviewed for watershed concerns.
Undertake four pre-disturbance watershed assessments.	No assessments were conducted in this planning area.
Complete erosion potential indices where required.	No erosion potential indices were required. However, development of erosion hazard maps for all the resource management areas was undertaken and these are near completion.

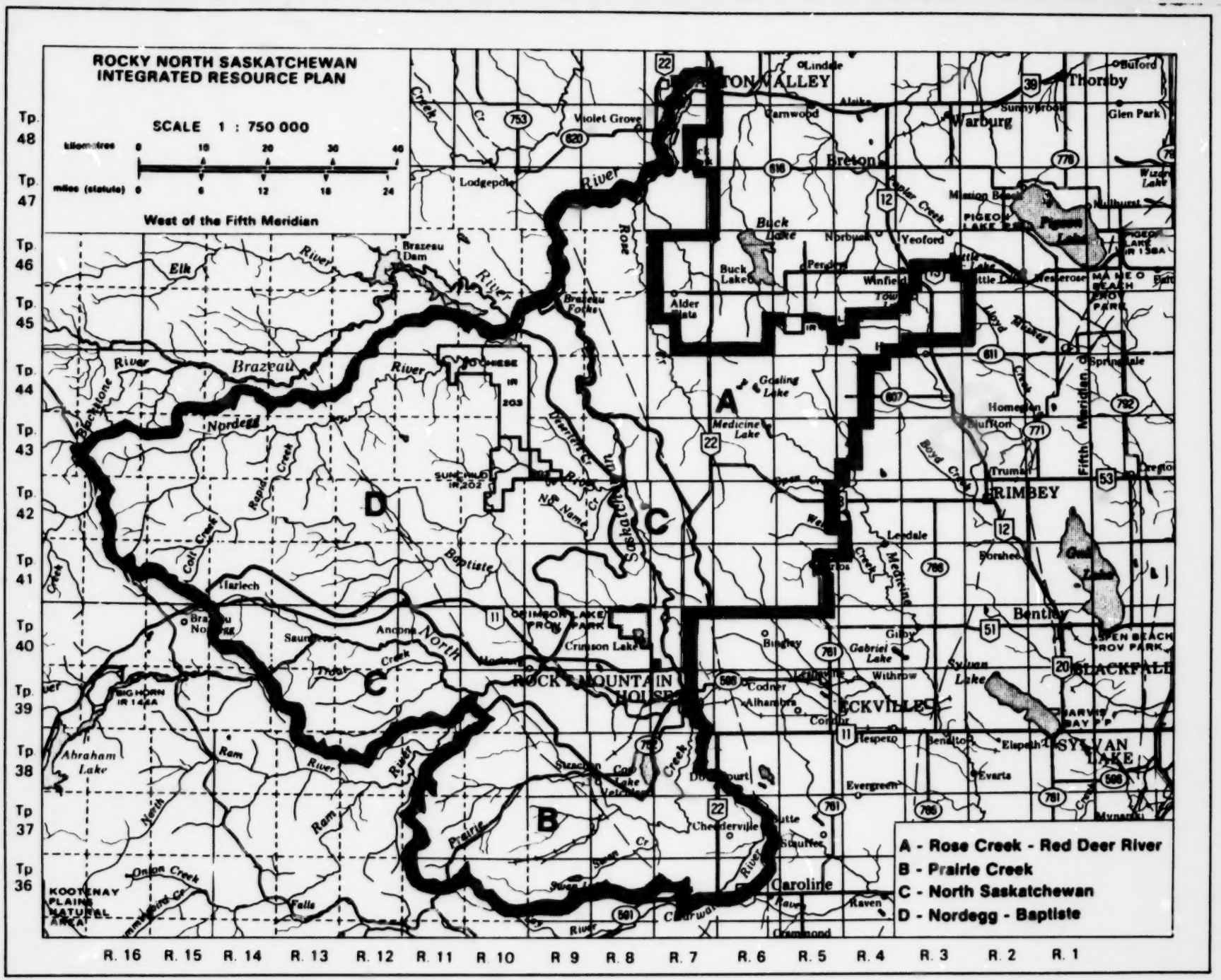

Figure 1. Resource Management Areas

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Erosion potential indices will be completed as required.
2) Review annual operating plans and all other land use and timber dispositions for watershed concerns when required.
3) One pre-disturbance watershed assessment is planned.

2.3 MODELLING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

The level of vegetation manipulation, which would provide an acceptable balance between water yield and maintaining water quality, will be determined by watershed modelling. Vegetation manipulation (usually logging) will change water quantity but will not directly change water quality. Computer modelling of basins will be used to determine changes in annual water yield.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Undertake water yield simulations as required.	No water yield simulations were used.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Water yield simulations will be done as required.

3.0 SURFACE MATERIALS RESOURCE

Surface materials in the planning area are managed to provide opportunities for industry to explore and develop the resource while maintaining the integrity of the area for future users.

Administration of resource use is carried out by the Alberta Forest Service and Public Lands Division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

3.1 AGGREGATE INVENTORY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide for the orderly exploration and development of the surface material resource in a manner compatible with environmental considerations.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Identify the location and extent of sand and gravel deposits through the Aggregate Inventory Program of the Alberta Research Council, and reserve lands as requested.	The Aggregate Inventory Program of the Alberta Research Council identified sand and gravel deposits. As there were no requests for development of these deposits, no reservations were made.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Review all new applications for surface material pits to ensure they conform to the integrated resource plan guidelines.

4.0 TIMBER

Maintenance of the forest land base and annual allowable cut of the planning area is the responsibility of the Alberta Forest Service. The responsibility includes forest protection (against fire, insects and disease), reforestation and the management of public land use throughout the forested portions of the planning area.

4.1 PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To protect the forest from damage or destruction by fire, insects, disease or other causes.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue fire prevention, presuppression and suppression to keep losses within provincial guidelines.	1989 fires in the planning area:

RMA	Lightning	Man-Caused	Area Burned
Prairie Creek	4	—	0.4 ha
North Sask. River	3	4	2.1 ha
Nordegg/Baptiste	10	6	13.2 ha
Rose Creek	—	—	—
TOTAL	17	10	15.7 ha

Reclaim fireguard on 1988 O'Chiese fire.	Fireguard reclamation completed.
Monitor insect and disease infestations.	An aerial survey of forest tent caterpillar defoliation was conducted over the majority of the planning area.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue fire prevention, presuppression and suppression activities, including revision of forest protection area boundary in eastern portions of Rose Creek RMA to include areas where there is a risk of wildfire escaping into forested areas.
2) Monitor for insect and disease infestations.

4.2 REFORESTATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To reforest all cutover areas in accordance with established reforestation regulations and policy.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Through site preparation, treat approximately 800 ha of cutover land in the Green Area.	A total of 157 ha of cutover land was treated. Wet weather prevented completion of the remaining site preparation projects. Heavy discing trials were conducted to assess effectiveness of the equipment in controlling competition and accelerating growth of coniferous seedlings. Results of the trials will be determined over the next few growing seasons.
Plant approximately 242 ha of cutover land with 303 000 seedlings.	A total of 183 000 seedlings were provided and planted.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue to reforest cutover areas in order to meet provincial regeneration standards.

4.3 FOREST INVENTORY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To inventory and protect timber resources on public lands in the White Area (the settled area of the province) to determine harvest levels on a sustained yield basis by local and small timber operators, and to eliminate timber wastage on grazing dispositions through better planning of range improvement projects.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Complete fringe area inventory of forested public lands in the White Area adjacent to the Clearwater (DR1), Brazeau (DR2) and Rocky (DR4) Ranger Districts. (Previously named DR2, DR5 and DR6.)	Alberta vegetation inventory mapping completed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

No activities planned.

4.4 HARVESTING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide an optimum annual allowable cut of timber resources on a sustained yield basis to meet present commitments and future requirements of coniferous timber quota (CTQ) and deciduous timber allocation (DTA) holders, local operators and private individuals.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Sign Forest Management Agreement with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd.	Negotiations on the Forest Management Agreement have not been finalized with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. It is anticipated that signing of the agreement will occur in 1990/91.
Complete salvage of fire-killed timber from the O'Chiese fire.	All coniferous and deciduous sawlog material was salvaged and hauled. A few small operators remain to salvage small roundwood and fuelwood.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue timber harvesting as outlined in approved annual operating plans.

4.5 PLANNING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To ensure sustained yield timber management within a multiple resource context.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue to monitor existing programs.	All coniferous timber quota (CTQ) and deciduous timber allocation (DTA) annual operating plans (AOPs) and general development plans (GDPs) for winter and summer logging were updated and approved. Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.'s AOPs and GDPs were updated and approved. Periodic field inspections were conducted by the Alberta Forest Service to ensure compliance and conformance to AOPs and GDPs, as well as to approve cutblock openings and closures, reforestation, erosion control, and proper road construction and reclamation. Timber management program reviews were held to review Forest Management Unit (FMU) plans, and timber management integrated resource plan guidelines and objectives. Timber harvest levels were reviewed for each operator in each FMU to ensure harvesting did not fall below or go over established approved annual allowable cut levels.

Review and approve Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.'s detailed FMA Management Plan.	Continued work towards completing Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.'s detailed FMA area plan, which will direct management of the FMA from 1990 to 2000.
Negotiate the terms of the Forest Management Agreement (FMA) with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd.	Negotiations are underway; however, terms are not yet finalized.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue monitoring existing programs.
2) Submission of Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd's. detailed FMA management plan by July 31, 1990. Progress reviews will be held thereafter.
3) Finalize terms of the Forest Management Agreement with Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. and review development of their preliminary management plan.

4.6 INTENSIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To increase timber yield through intensive forest management techniques such as genetic improvement and thinning.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Identify and assess potential intensive forest management opportunities.	Juvenile timber stands on 262 ha were tended (thinning, cleaning and fertilizing) by Sunpine Forest Products Ltd. and Tall Pine Timber under the Public Land Development Program - Intensive Silviculture Component.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Stand tending under the Public Lands Development Program - Intensive Silviculture Component will continue if funding is available.

5.0 WILDLIFE

Wildlife is managed in this plan to provide a variety of recreational and commercial opportunities, and to meet future demands for viable and diverse wildlife populations for a full range of species, including:

a) ungulates;
b) furbearers; and
c) scarce species.

Wildlife resources are managed by the Fish and Wildlife Division (F&W), Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

5.1 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT/INVENTORY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To undertake wildlife management and inventory programs that will help ensure the maintenance and/or increase of viable and diverse wildlife populations within the planning area.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Possibly eliminate cow elk permits in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 322 and 324, and maintain a small number in WMU 332 (RMAs A, B, & C).	Cow elk seasons were not held in these WMU's due to low elk densities.
Conduct a moose survey in WMU 332 (RMA A).	This survey was not conducted due to a shift in survey priorities (area was surveyed in 1987).

Conduct routine elk and sheep range surveys.	These surveys were not conducted due to a shift in survey priorities to areas further west where higher animal densities exist.
Continue to address wildlife depredation problems.	Fencing was supplied to control elk depredation on several sites.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Conduct a moose survey in WMU 324 (RMA B).
2) Establish new trapline quotas for lynx, marten and fisher.
3) Continue to address wildlife depredation problems.

5.2 WILDLIFE REINTRODUCTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Reintroduce selected native wildlife species through transplant programs into portions of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Integrated Resource Planning area where populations are low or non-existent.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
No transplants were planned for 1989/90.	River otters were a priority species for transplanting into the planning area. However, river otter sightings on the Baptiste and North Saskatchewan rivers suggest that the species may be moving back into the area on its own.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

No transplants planned for 1990/91.

5.3 WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To minimize the impact of land use activities on wildlife populations and their habitat in the planning area. This is facilitated by departmental and interdepartmental planning and referral systems, through which wildlife habitat protection and mitigation conditions are placed on land use dispositions.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue to provide Fish and Wildlife Division input into land use referrals while focusing more attention on the expanded timber harvesting in the area.	Fish and Wildlife Division input into land use referral systems was maintained. Expanded programs of aspen harvesting received increased review by Fish and Wildlife in 1989/90.
Complete the David Thompson Local Integrated Resource Plan.	This plan was delayed for several months in 1989/90, but is now nearing completion.
Continue to refine and reduce Fish and Wildlife Division's input on land use activity in lower priority portions of the planning area.	Some reductions were implemented. These were primarily in the area of petroleum and natural gas exploration and development.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue to provide Fish and Wildlife input to land use referrals.
2) Implement a modified review and input system for geophysical referrals.

5.4 WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To maintain and/or expand the program of wildlife habitat enhancement in the planning area. The program is aimed at improving the quality and quantity of suitable habitat for a range of wildlife species, but presently focuses primarily on big game species and birds where hunter demand exceeds current supply. Projects are planned to result in increased populations and improved distribution of desired wildlife species within the planning area. The ultimate goal of this work is to ensure maintenance and/or increases in opportunities for recreational use of wildlife by the public.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Conduct a fencing project on Mud Creek to protect 22 ha of prime wildlife habitat on private land (RMA B).	Approximately 11 ha have been completely fenced, while the remaining portion may not be fenced due to changes in land ownership status.
Hoadley Trappers Association to conduct moose browse enhancement on 50 ha in the Wilson Creek area (RMA A).	Approximately 50 ha of decadent willows were cut to promote regrowth of browse for moose in the Wilson Creek area.
Rimbey Fish and Game Association to conduct moose browse enhancement on 40 ha in the Medicine Lake area (RMA A).	Approximately 60 ha of decadent willows were cut to promote regrowth of browse for moose in the Medicine Lake area.
New project developed since last annual review.	Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association mowed 20 ha of decadent willows west of Jackfish Lake (RMA D) to improve moose browse.
New project.	Bluebird nest boxes (13) were provided to volunteers who installed them on the old Harlech sawmill site (RMA C).
New project.	Three loon nesting platforms were provided to the Junior Forest Wardens to be installed on water bodies around Rocky Mountain House (RMA C).

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Rimbey Fish and Game Association to conduct moose browse enhancement.
2) Hoadley Trappers Association to conduct moose browse enhancement.
3) Rocky Mountain House Fish and Game Association to conduct moose browse enhancement.
4) Other projects as identified throughout the year.

6.0 FISHERIES

The fisheries resource in the planning area is managed to provide a variety of recreational and commercial opportunities by:

a) maintaining or increasing natural fish populations;
b) establishing new populations in suitable areas;
c) protecting or enhancing habitat;
d) providing suitable access; and
e) establishing and satisfying user demand.

The resource is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

6.1 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT/INVENTORY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To continue with a comprehensive, field-level fisheries inventory program to collect data required for making management decisions. Management plans will provide long-term direction for angling regulations, stocking requirements and any potential habitat protection or enhancement needs. Efforts will be directed at maintaining viable, self-sustaining fish populations to provide an optimal level and diversity of recreational angling opportunities. The highest priority will be placed on maintaining self-sustaining populations of native fish.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Conduct a population estimate of fish in Prairie Creek.	Sport fish populations in Prairie Creek were examined. The work indicated that in the sections examined the fish population has risen from 112 sport fish/km in 1974 to 640/km in 1989.
Monitor brown trout spawning run in Prairie Creek.	Critical spawning areas were found to exist along a limited length of the creek. Brown trout were documented moving as far up as 27 km to reach these spawning areas.
Conduct creel surveys to evaluate angler harvests at Twin and Swan lakes.	Surveys were conducted on Swan Lake. The study found that most lake trout were harvested during the first two days of the season. The winter fishery accounts for approximately 25% of the lake trout harvest. Twin Lakes was not stocked in 1989; therefore, no creel survey was conducted.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Conduct a lake trout spawning assessment at Swan Lake.
2) Continue the spawning habitat assessment on Prairie Creek.
3) Continue angler harvest evaluation at Swan Lake.
4) Conduct a feasibility assessment of arctic grayling stocking in Mitchell Lake.

6.2 FISH STOCKING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To stock identified lakes and streams within the planning area to maintain and enhance sportfishing opportunities.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue the current stocking program.	Due to disease problems in rainbow trout hatchery stocks, no fish were stocked in the area in 1989/90.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Due to limited availability of hatchery stock, it is unlikely that any trout will be stocked in area lakes during 1990/91.
2) Evaluate the stocked rainbow trout fishery at Twin Lakes.

6.3 FISHERIES HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To continue to expand a program of fisheries habitat enhancement and development within the planning area. These projects will assist in increasing sport fish populations and recreational angling opportunities within the planning area. Programs such as streambank fencing, fish pond creation and instream habitat improvement will continue to be the main methods of accomplishing these enhancement goals.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Cow Lake feasibility study.	A feasibility analysis was initiated in cooperation with Alberta Environment to evaluate potential for installing a weir on the outlet of Cow Lake to maintain the lake level. Currently the level is maintained by a beaver dam which could fail, causing lowering of water levels (RMA C).
Vetch Creek streambank protection.	Three kilometers of fence were constructed to protect 1.6 km of Vetch Creek from livestock damage (RMA B).

Mud Creek streambank protection.	A fence was constructed along Mud Creek to protect the south bank on a 0.5 km stretch of the stream (RMA B).
Fisheries access site maintenance.	The fisheries access site at the Rocky Children's Pond was maintained (RMA C).
Project maintenance.	Streambank fence maintenance was conducted on all Buck for Wildlife Projects in the planning area [Prairie Creek, Vetch Creek, Mud Creek, Swan Creek (RMA B)].

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue project maintenance on all streambank fences.
2) Construct additional fences to protect Vetch Creek from livestock damage.
3) Construct additional fences to protect Prairie Creek from livestock damage.
4) Conduct additional fisheries enhancement projects as identified.
5) Continue the feasibility analysis at Cow Lake and work with Alberta Environment on the environmental impact evaluation required as part of the proposed project.

6.4 FISHERIES HABITAT PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To minimize impact of land use activities on fish habitat and populations in the planning area. This is accomplished by involvement in the departmental and interdepartmental planning and referral systems, through which fish habitat protection and mitigation conditions are placed on land and water use dispositions. In addition, environmental emergencies are to be investigated.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review and provide input to land and water use referrals and planning activities in the area.	Fish and Wildlife Division input to water-related referrals was maintained. In 1989/90, the majority of referrals related to pipeline crossings, road construction, erosion control and instream construction activities.
Provide input into the David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan.	Input to David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan was provided. Plan now nearing completion.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue the current program of input to water-related referral systems.
2) Complete the David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan.

7.0 RECREATION

Recreation management includes the provision of facilities and services to a remarkably diverse user community. Facilities for auto access, camping, staging areas, trails and more are managed for the use of hikers, skiers, off-highway vehicle users, equestrians and others. Services include operation, maintenance and upgrading of existing areas.

The Alberta Forest Service and Public Lands Division are responsible for the management of both recreation facilities and services in the planning area.

7.1 COMMERCIAL

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To prepare a policy addressing commercial recreation management in backcountry locations in order to establish direction for the allocation of base camps and staging areas for commercial operators. In easily accessible front areas, the disposition of public lands for private sector recreational and tourism facility development is also a major function.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Present draft policy on provincial backcountry camping standards to Deputy Minister for approval.	Final draft was approved and implemented during the summer. Signage was developed and placed at popular access points to backcountry areas.
Continue participation in development of a provincial commercial recreation policy.	An initial draft policy has been completed and is being reviewed by senior management.
Review any private sector proposals for development of recreational and tourism facilities as submitted.	Proposals from the private sector have been limited. No facilities have been approved or constructed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue to enforce backcountry camping standards.
2) Continue to participate in the working group for a provincial commercial recreation policy.
3) Undertake review of any private sector proposals as submitted.

7.2 RECREATION AREAS, WATER ACCESS POINTS AND STAGING AREAS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Recreation management includes provisions for new areas, as defined by demand, as well as maintenance of existing sites. These services are provided according to the recreation management mandate established by the Alberta Forest Service in the Green Area. Facilities include picnic tables, fire rings, privies and hand-pumps for water; electrical and sewage services are not available.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Maintenance and upgrading of facilities to existing Alberta Forest Service standards.	Phyllis Lake Recreation Area upgrading plan waiting approval (RMA B).
Construction of a group camp at Medicine Lake.	No activity because of budget constraints.
Staging area and trail construction for motorized recreation in baseline area (RMA B).	No activity because of budget constraints.
Construction of one or two water access points on the North Saskatchewan River downstream from Rocky Mountain House.	No activity because of budget constraints.
Construction of fisheries access points where required, e.g., Ironside Pond (RMA B).	No activity because of budget constraints.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Continue to budget for funds to complete identified projects.

7.3 TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide facilities as required that capitalize on the unique features of the planning area in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Develop a cross-country ski trail in the Ferrier area (RMA A).	No activity to date because of budget constraints; however, this will remain on the priority list.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Identify and plan for additional trail development as demand warrants.

7.4 VISITOR USE

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To monitor visitor use in developed recreation areas in order to establish trends and anticipate changes in visitor requirements for recreation facilities and services.

RESULTS EXPECTED

Continue recording statistics from user surveys in recreation areas.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

Recording of user statistics and surveys was ongoing. Total seasonal use (*party nights) for recreation areas within the planning area was recorded as follows:

RECREATION AREA:	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Swan Lake	1580	1802	1364	1808	1750
Saunders Water Access	155	139	376	104	149
Harlech	964	682	811	463	672
Shunda Viewpoint	—	212	414	159	496
Prairie Creek	3356	3503	3033	2650	2371
Cow Lake Water Access	569	2616	—	—	—
Strachan	1367	2356	1962	1398	2017
Mitchell Lk.Wat.Ac.	135	266	186	80	79
Struble Lk.Wat.Ac.	—	—	289	—	—
South Fork	363	66	742	768	879
Medicine Lake	3445	4403	3862	5325	5129
Chambers Creek	1710	1438	1265	1353	2439
Horburg	495	827	493	984	1618
Jackfish Lake	483	553	328	283	505
TOTAL	14622	18863	15125	15375	18104
Change from prev. yr:	+14%	+29%	-20%	+1.7%	+18%

(*party nights = 3.3 people for one night)

User origin by market area:

Year	Primary	Secondary	Outside
1989	60.4%	25.2%	14.4%
1988	54.0%	34.2%	11.8%
1987	58.8%	26.5%	14.7%
1986	65.3%	26.7%	8.0%
1985	54.3%	32.6%	13.1%

These results indicate that the number of visitors from all market areas remained relatively static.

USER ORIGIN 1989:

Primary Market:	Planning area	39.0%
	Red Deer	20.9%
Secondary Market:	Calgary	1.0%
	Edmonton	13.7%
	Others	10.8%
Outside Market:	In province	8.6%
	Out of province	5.0%
	Out of country	1.0%
		100.0%

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Continue user surveys in recreation areas.

8.0 FORAGE RESOURCE

The forage resource in the planning area occurs primarily along the eastern boundary. It is managed both by the Public Lands Division and the Alberta Forest Service in this area.

8.1 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE PROVINCIAL GRAZING RESERVE

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

The primary purpose of the grazing reserve is to provide grazing privileges to farmers and ranchers. Small and medium-sized farms, as well as beginner operations, are given special consideration.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Operate/utilize the reserve at full capacity and maintain the livestock death loss below 1%.	The reserve was operated/used to full capacity. A total of 7889 animal unit months were used by 55 patrons in 1989. The death losses were 0.59%.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Maintain the present level of stocking and keep the livestock death loss below 1%.

8.2 STOCKING LEVELS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To maintain the 1977 stocking levels within the Eastern Slopes Policy boundary on a sustainable basis by improving range conditions and stock management.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
White Area: Continue monitoring of stocking rates and assessment of range conditions.	White Area: There were a total of 155 grazing lease dispositions covering 26 635 ha, which provide grazing for 15 918 animal unit months. A total of seven grazing permits covering 480 ha were authorized, which provide grazing for 260 animal unit months.
Green Area: Monitor range condition and stocking rates to improve or maintain range and watershed conditions.	Green Area: Fifty-one grazing leases, licences and permits provided for 9766 AUMs.
Green Area: Alberta Forest Service to continue annual inspections of all grazing dispositions, and determine stocking levels for the 1989/90 season.	Green Area: Based on fall inspections and previous use levels, disposition holders were advised of changes that were required for the 1989/90 season.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) White Area: Continue monitoring stocking rates and range condition.
2) Green Area: Continue monitoring stocking rates and assessment of range condition.
3) Green Area: Continue annual range inspections of all grazing dispositions.

8.3 RANGE MANAGEMENT PLANNING/EVALUATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To manage the forage resource through range management planning and assess opportunities to further enhance range capability in the future.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Alberta Forest Service will prepare range management plans that will direct use of the grazing disposition in the planning area.	Range management plans have been completed and implemented for the following allotments/head tax permits: - Rough Creek - Prairie Creek - South Fork - Diamond Hill Draft copies of range management plans have been completed for the following dispositions: Omni Head Tax Permit, GRL 38690, GRL 40502, GRL 36488, GRL 39929, GRL 40750, GRL 40351, GRL 40272, GRL 780044.
Continue ongoing range improvement projects.	Development phases of existing range development plans continued in both the White and Green Areas. The direct funding assistance program ended this year after operating for 10 years.
Evaluate and implement new range improvement projects as applications are submitted.	Ongoing assessment of range improvement applications. A total of 10 new range development applications were approved in the White Area with range development plans completed.
Evaluate vacant public land for grazing suitability.	A total of 880 ha were tendered with five new grazing lease dispositions issued in the White Area.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue preparation of range management plans in the Green Area that will direct use of grazing dispositions.
2) Complete and implement the draft range management plans for the Omni Head Tax Permit, GRL 38690, GRL 40502, GRL 36488, GRL 39929, GRL 40750, GRL 40351, GRL 40272 and GRL 780044.
3) Evaluate and implement new range improvement projects as applications are submitted.
4) Continue with committed development phases on existing range improvement projects.
5) Continue processing range development assistance applications through the indirect funding program upon the lessee/permittees request.

9.0 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE

The agricultural resource refers to public lands that are currently tilled or have the potential for tilled cropping. Assessment and public land management of the resource is the responsibility of the Public Lands Division in the White Area.

9.1 ROSE CREEK AGRICULTURE CAPABILITY STUDY

MANAGEMENT INTENT

To assess the potential for agricultural development on a block of land (approximately 16 188 ha) located in Twp. 44-47, Rge. 7-9, W5M.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Obtain ministerial approval of the study's recommendations and disposal of land (as identified for sale) through existing procedures within the Public Lands Division.	Ministerial approval was received and the land identified for sale is being processed for disposal through existing procedures within the Public Lands Division.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Withdraw the lands identified for sale from the Green Area and dispose of this land through a tender or auction process as demand warrants.

10.0 ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife, Alberta Recreation and Parks, and Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism all have roles in identifying and managing natural features, landscapes, ecosystems and historical resources.

10.1 PRESERVATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To protect and manage the resources to preserve their unique characteristics. This may involve placing protective notations, preparing management plans, phasing out existing non-conforming uses or proposing natural area designations.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Designate the O'Chiese Ecologically Significant Area (ESA) as a Natural Area.	The O'Chiese Candidate Natural Area was formally established by Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. A total of 374 ha has been placed under a protective notation reservation, including the following lands: Twp. 44, Rge. 10, W5M: NW3, NE4, LSDs 6, 7, 8, 11 & 14 of 4, LSDs 3 & 6 of 9, SW10. Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. has shown interest in acting as the volunteer steward for this area.
Finalize the biophysical analysis and commence the management planning process for the McGregor Lake Candidate Natural Area.	The final draft of the biophysical analysis was completed. The candidate area was advertised for public input and concerns. Due to other work commitments, work on the areas management plan did not commence.
Commence the management planning process for the Alexo Candidate Natural Area.	The Alexo Candidate Natural Area was formally established by Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. A total of 33 ha has been placed under a protective notation reservation, including the following lands: Twp. 49, Rge. 13, W5M: part NE 27. Draft terms of reference for the area's management plan were completed for RRMC approval. The Youth and Volunteer Centre that operates the adjacent Camp Alexo will act as volunteer stewards for the area.
Complete the Ecologically Significant Area study that was commissioned for the David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan.	The study was completed and provided for input into the plan. Several ecologically significant areas were identified. An area near Jackfish Lake with a variety of upland and wetland vegetation types, rare and uncommon plants, and unusual community types has been recommended for consideration as a Natural Area. An area in the Louis Lake, Prentice Creek and Lochearn wetlands may merit further protection.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) O'Chiese Candidate Natural Area: undertake a biophysical analysis of the area to use as input into the management planning process.
2) McGregor Lake Candidate Natural Area: if workloads permit, commence the management planning process.
3) Alexo Candidate Natural Area: finalize terms of reference by May 1990; complete management plan by December 1990; implement management plan in the spring of 1991.
4) Jackfish Lake ESA: establish a protective notation reservation and through additional field study, ratify the final boundary for a candidate natural area.
5) Louis Lake, Prentice Creek and Lochearn Wetlands ESA: establish a consultative notation reservation and through further study, determine if the area merits additional protection.

11.0 TOURISM

Tourism has been identified within "A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes" (Revised 1984) as being an important area of development over the next decade. Tourism marketing and promotion to attract investment is managed through Alberta Tourism. Monitoring of visitor use and referrals for facility development (to ensure that any facility development is in accordance with the integrated resource plan) is directed by the Alberta Forest Service and Public Lands Division with assistance from Fish and Wildlife Division and Regional Coordination Services.

11.1 ENCOURAGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To encourage the development of commercial and private sector tourism and recreation facilities on public and private land.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Completion of community tourism action plans (CTAP) for communities as required.	The joint Town of Rocky Mountain House and Municipal District (MD) of Clearwater Community Tourism Action Plan was approved in 1987 and underwent its annual review this year. Development of a CTAP for the MD of Brazeau #77 is ongoing. Westaskiwin County #10 completed their plan in 1989 and it has now been approved by Alberta Tourism.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Completion of CTAP for communities as required.
2) Funding of approved projects through Alberta Tourism.

12.0 ACCESS

The coordination of access route development, while minimizing the impact on other resources and minimizing duplication of effort and expense, is the responsibility of the Alberta Forest Service and the Public Lands Division, assisted by the Fish and Wildlife Division.

12.1 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To coordinate the development of access routes in order to minimize negative effects on various resources and users.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Use existing operational-level initiatives to manage new access routes.	The referral process and on-site inspections were used on an ongoing basis to facilitate new access development and mitigate any negative effects. Operational-level initiatives were undertaken on a site-specific basis. Physical closure of new access routes has been undertaken at specific sites within critical and key wildlife areas.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Continue operational-level initiatives to manage new access routes on a site-specific basis where current policy allows.

12.2 RECLAMATION OF ACCESS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To reclaim specific roads, trails and/or abandoned dispositions within the planning area as required after determining the following:

a) rate, degree and extent of environmental damage;
b) need to retain the road for industrial or resource management purposes;
c) cost of reclamation;
d) level of public use; and
e) conflicts with other resource uses as identified through the objectives and guidelines of the Rocky/North Saskatchewan IRP.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
New program - not previously identified.	Through the Alberta Heritage Savings and Trust Fund (AHSTF), the following abandoned dispositions were reclaimed: old gravel pit in Sec. 34, Twp. 36, Rge. 9, W5M; old car bodies removed in NE 6, Twp. 41, Rge. 13, W5M and in Sec. 31, Twp. 42, Rge. 11, W5M.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Reclamation projects on abandoned dispositions will be identified for AHSTF funding as the need or opportunity arises.

13.0 LAND USE ADMINISTRATION

Land use is a commonly used term to describe all activities that relate to the administration of resource uses of the land. These activities are the responsibility of the Alberta Forest Service in the Green Area and Public Lands Division in the White Area. Administration of resource activities is intended to ensure compliance with established government policies, regulations and the management intents outlined in the IRP.

13.1 LAND USE PLANNING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To adjust the administration boundary within the planning area with respect to the Green/White Area lands.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Adjust the Green/White Area boundary according to the Rose Creek Agricultural Capability Study recommendations.	Nine quarters of land have been found suitable for agricultural development. (E1/2 1-47-8-W5M, N1/2 36, SE 36, E1/2 25, and E1/2 24 (excepting a portion of LS2 because of topographical constraints and wildlife concerns) all in 46-8-W5M.) Approval to implement the recommendations was given by the Minister.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) The Green/White Area boundary will be adjusted as per the study recommendations.
2) Suitable portions of the nine quarters identified will be made available for agricultural development as demand dictates.

13.2 LAND USE PLANNING - DAVID THOMPSON CORRIDOR LOCAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

The David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan was initiated in 1987 to:

1) prepare a refined and specific resource management and development plan for the appropriate uses of land and resources within the planning area;
2) identify appropriate conservation priorities along the corridor; and
3) provide appropriate guidance for preparation of the implementation of the plan following final approval.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Endorsement of a draft plan by the RRMC and submission of draft for public review. Incorporate comments from the public review and submit final plan for senior management endorsement.	Due to manpower shortages in the Resource Planning Branch, completion of the draft plan was delayed for several months. The planning team began meeting again in February, working towards a spring 1990 completion date.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Endorsement of draft plan by RRMC and submission of the plan for public review. Incorporate public comments and submit final plan for senior management endorsement.
2) Implement the David Thompson Corridor Local Integrated Resource Plan immediately after plan approval.

13.3 REFERRALS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide input into government referral systems dealing with applications for use of public lands in the planning area.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue to review and provide input into the land use referral system.	Input concerning protection of the fish and wildlife, watershed, timber, recreation and other resources has been provided through the referral systems. Major activities requiring review were oil and gas exploration and development, and timber harvesting throughout the planning area. A number of proposals for commercial developments in the planning area have occurred in the past year. The following land use referrals were processed by the Alberta Forest Service in the Green Area: 10 - Miscellaneous Leases 40 - Geophysical 96 - Mineral Surface Leases 64 - Pipeline Agreements 50 - Licence of Occupation 28 - Easements 20 - Pipeline Installation Leases 3 - Protective/Consultative Notations 11 - Miscellaneous Permits 5 - Surface Mineral Leases/Permits 10 - Herbicide Permit Application 2 - Commercial Trail Riding Permits — 339 TOTAL
Refine methods of applying Fish and Wildlife Division operating conditions to geophysical programs.	New reference maps for Fish and Wildlife input to geophysical referrals have been completed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue involvement in land use referral system.
2) Implement use of Fish and Wildlife geophysical reference maps.

13.4 LAND EXCHANGE

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide the opportunity for acquiring environmentally sensitive land from private ownership through land exchanges of suitable public land. All three divisions of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife have a role to ensure environmentally sensitive private land can be obtained where possible.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Acquire environmentally sensitive private land when opportunities are available.	A total of 59.9 ha of environmentally sensitive private land was exchanged for 64.8 ha of suitable public land.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Continue to optimize opportunities for the exchange of environmentally sensitive private land for suitable public land.

14.0 SUMMARY

The foregoing is intended to provide an account of what has been accomplished in the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Planning Area between April 1989 and March 1990. The activities reported in this document are a result of the recommendations of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan approved March 4, 1986.

Implementation of the plan is progressing essentially on schedule. Some projects, as mentioned in the report, have been deferred to a later date due to budget constraints.

If you have any comments relating to this report, please direct them to:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
P.O. Box 1598
Rocky Mountain House, AB.
T0M 1T0

The courier address to be used to forward comments from provincial government departments is:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
Courier Box 23
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
Rocky Mountain House, AB.
T0M 1T0

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